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BOOK REVIEWS

A History of Secondary Education in Scotland. By JOHN STRONG. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1909. Pp. viii+288.

As one reads through the pages of Professor Strong's work one is impressed with the scholarly tone that pervades the history from cover to cover, frequent references that enable the student of education to work still deeper into any phase of the subject of Scottish education, selections of original sources interwoven with the narrative in a pleasing manner, and the thoroughness with which the author has delved into private and public source-material in order to illuminate each topic of consideration with the proper light of its historical setting. The monograph is a valuable addition to the literature of secondary education. It is to be regretted that the author did not supply in the appendix a few of the curricula of the representative secondary schools of the country.

The starting-point of the history is the year 563 A.D., when Columba founded the monastery at Iona. Subsequent chapters show how education in Scotland, as on the Continent, was for centuries closely associated with the church, and that the central aim of the schools was the dissemination of church teaching and dogma. During the period of Catholic supremacy, which ended with the Reformation, three factors—the diocese, the monasteries, and the parish—had their influence in establishing schools that are represented by different types of secondary schools found in Scotland in the later part of her educational history. The place of the parish and burgh schools in the evolution of the educational system of Scotland receives full treatment in separate chapters. During the eighteenth century the influence of the parish schools was so beneficial in shaping manhood in the land as to lead a later historian to assert that the best and greatest men whom Scotland produced during the century received their education at parish schools.

The distinctive features of Scottish education as seen in its history and present condition are: an intimate connection between its elementary and secondary grades, which is found in that distinctly Scottish institution, the parish school; the easy accessibility of its higher institutions of learning to the general public; the national character of its schools and universities; and the communal control of education in the burghs. The secondary schools of Scotland entered upon a new lease of life about the beginning of the nineteenth century, when changes and extensions in the curriculum brought about the erection of new buildings all over the land, and the rebuilding of many of the older ones. But the renaissance of these schools dates back about two decades only. In recent years state aid has been given to the schools, with the result that remarkable expansion and development have ensued. With state assistance has come state supervision as well, which in recent years has extended over practically the whole of secondary education in Scotland.

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